

The road frequently leads through copses of cork-trees and pines, and large barren tracts are seen covered with *Chamærops humilis*. *Narcissus serotinus*, L., *Scilla autumnalis*, L., *Leucogon autumnale*, *Squilla maritima*, *Ranunculus bullatus* and *Melissa Calamintha* flowered everywhere in this lowland; more rarely *Merendera Bulbocodium* and *Mandragora officinarum*. The most interesting plant which presented itself on this road was the *Pancreatium humile*, Cav., or *Carenosia lutea*, Boiss., still so seldom found in herbariums, which hitherto was only known in one locality at Seville, where it occurs rarely, and in another at the Puerto de St. Maria. This lovely and sweet-smelling plant grows luxuriantly and very frequent in the plains of the province of Huelva, where I have observed it from Cartaya to within a few leagues of Seville, and is on some spots, as for example in the environs of the village of Niebla, extremely common.

The environs of Seville present at this season scarcely anything beside the common autumnal flora of the plains of Lower Andalusia.

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL NOTICES.

Phycologia Britannica: or a History of British Sea-weeds, containing Coloured Figures, Generic and Specific Characters, Synonymes, and Descriptions of all the species of Algæ inhabiting the Shores of the British Islands. By WILLIAM HENRY HARVEY, M.D., M.R.I.A., Keeper of the Herbarium of the University of Dublin.

As great admirers of that beautiful portion of our flora, the subjects of which, even more than those of the land, are "born to blush unseen," we hail with extreme pleasure an illustrated 'History of British Sea-weeds.' And above all—on account of the accuracy it insures—one, in which every species inhabiting the shores of the British Islands will be drawn, lithographed and described by the same hand. The importance of this combination in the one individual is well known to all naturalists who have had any experience; the species being generally described by one party, drawn by a second, and engraved by a third:—and truly may we say, that "small by degrees and *beautifully* less" in accuracy is sure to be their fate the more hands they pass through.

This work is published in royal octavo, to admit of as many species as possible being figured of full natural size; when this cannot be done, a double plate will occasionally appear; and of the giants of the deep, a portion will be given of natural size; when the species are minute, two will be represented on the same plate, as we already see done in the *Elachistea*, seven species being thus figured in the one number instead of six, as announced in the prospectus. In every instance microscopical representations of the structure, fructification, &c. will appear, and all will be coloured.

The descriptive portion will be much more full than in any previous work in which our native plants have been treated of, for the 'Phycologia Britannica' will as a whole occupy a place by itself. We have ample descriptions of the species; their geographical dis-

tribution; their distribution on our own coasts; and their general history. To use the author's words:—"The plan which I have adopted is, to select the species illustrated in each number from several different genera, taken from as many families, so that there shall always be a variety of subjects in the monthly number; and, as early in the work as possible, to figure one species at least of every genus, so that by the end of the twentieth number, which will complete the first volume, illustrations of all the genera may be placed before the student. This, with the aid of the descriptions of species and sketch of a general arrangement afforded by the 'Manual'* (which may serve as a synopsis of the principal contents of the 'Phycologia'), will afford him very great facilities for determining his plants during the progress of this work, even though the particular species which he has under examination may not be among those then figured in it. Were the plants to be published systematically, it is obvious that not till the completion of the entire work would the student have as much assistance toward understanding the genera, as he will now have at the end of the first volume. This arrangement is therefore decidedly the best for those who have purchased the 'Manual,' and as it appears to me, for those also, who, now commencing the study of *Algology*, wish to obtain speedily a general view of the principal varieties of marine plants."

Sixty numbers will complete the work, five of which are now before us, and we question whether a more beautiful botanical work, plates and typography combined, has ever issued from the press,—at so low a price we feel certain that none has. In these five numbers appear species altogether new (*Griffithsia devoniensis*, *Elachistea attenuata*); some before known in other seas, but now for the first time added to our flora (*Chordaria divaricata*); and several species figured for the first time.

So favourably is Mr. Harvey known to the botanical world as an algologist, that to speak of his excellent treatment of the subject in all its bearings, as known to the present time, seems to us superfluous. We say advisedly as known to the present time, for sufficient attention has not hitherto been paid to the general œconomy of the Algæ. A knowledge of the peculiar rocks, soils, &c. affected by the various species; the ranges of depth, influence of currents and tides, not only on their presence, but on their growth, rendering them dwarfed or luxuriant according to circumstances, have not, at least in our own country, been properly studied. These causes have a much more important bearing on Algæ than a mere difference of latitude. We trust therefore that the author will throughout his work afford us all the information he can obtain on these interesting points—in natural history every positive observation is of value. We have ourselves attended to some extent to what is here suggested, and have been much interested to find upon coasts of similar mineralogical and geological character, though separated by several degrees of latitude, the same broad botanical features; indeed, the mere appearance of a particular

* Manual of British Algæ, by the same author, published a few years ago.

character of coast at any part of the British Islands suggests to us its productions. Yet are there some species so far influenced by latitude, as not to be found further south than our more northern shores, and others again not further north than our more southern coasts: in such cases our shores are the extreme limits of the species in the respective directions. Further we need not here enter into this subject, but instead, call upon our author to give us all the information in his power.

The 'History of British Sea-weeds' we can most faithfully recommend for its scientific, its pictorial, and its popular value. The professed botanist will find it a work of the highest character. Persons who have not commenced the study, or who desire merely to know the names and history of the lovely plants which they gather on the margin of the sea, will find in it when complete the faithful portraiture of every one of them. Those who have not that happy privilege, but in "close cities pent," or confined to the inland country, will have before them pictorial representations only less fresh and glowing than the beautiful originals; and those who merely desire what the French call a work of luxury for the drawing-room table, will, owing to the extreme variety and delicacy of form of the objects, combined with the most glowing colours, find that no work at the same cost is more attractive, or should be preferred before it.

PROCEEDINGS OF LEARNED SOCIETIES.

ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

November 25, 1845.—William Horton Lloyd, Esq., in the Chair.

A paper was read containing "Descriptions of fourteen new species of *Helix*, belonging to the collection of H. Cuming, Esq.," by Dr. L. Pfeiffer:—

1. *HELIX ALBOCINCTA*, Pfr. *Hel. testá umbilicatá, orbiculato-convexá, tenuiusculá, supernè regulariter et confertim striatá, sericiná, fulvo-corneá, carinatá; spirá depresso-conicá, apice obtuso; anfractibus 5½ convexis, cariná albá cinctis, ultimo basi sublævigato, lineis subtilibus, concentricis notato; umbilico mediocri, pervio; aperturá obliquá, angulato-lunari; peristomate simplice, acuto.*

Diam. 11, alt. 5 mill.

Collected by Mr. Cuming at Himamaylan, island of Negros.

2. *HELIX BOHOLENSIS*, Pfr. *Hel. testá imperforatá, depressá, lenticulari, acutè carinatá, tenui, corneo-albidá; spirá convexiusculá; anfractibus 7 planulatis, regulariter confertim striatis, juxta carinam lineis 2 acutè elevatis approximatis cinctis, ultimo basi convexiusculo, striatulo, medio vix impresso, anticè non descendente; aperturá verticali, depressissimá, latè angulato-lunari; peristomate simplice, acuto, margine supero brevissimo.*

Diam. 14, alt. 6 mill.

Var. *minor*, *anfractibus 6½*. Diam. 10, alt. 4 mill.

Collected by Mr. Cuming at Loboc, island of Bohol.